



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: March 13, 2008

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM. The February 14, 2008 minutes were approved as amended.

Tom Cady (HC/V), ELAC Chair, had everyone around the room introduce themselves, as there were a number of new faces.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Marty Hackman (NJDEP/OQA) reported the OQA is going through the SW-846 methods in the certification Part III forms, stating some will be modified and some will be updated in accordance with the Revision IV update of SW-846. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked how long would labs have to update to the new methods and Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) replied 3 – 6 months. It was asked if NELAC had a paper or stance but it was noted there has never been conformity on methods, every state is different in handling methods and most states don't even list the letter suffix; there is no consistency at all. Phil Worby (Accutest) asked if there would be problems if labs used the most recent method. Dr. Miller reminded everyone that NELAC labs must "service clients" and if a client requested the older method, perhaps due to permit reasons, the lab must have documentation of this request to show the state when being audited. The laboratory would be audited against the method the client requested. Marty stated OQA is trying to have and "either/or" certification (e.g. 8270C or 8270D). Harvey Klein (GSL) noted SW-846 is not certified on the federal level adding drinking water and wastewater do not have flexibility, as they must use the current method. Tom stated this topic would be on the agenda for next month.

PT Program: No report

TPH: Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) reported revision 7 for NJDEP-OQA-QAM-025 is finally out and will be posted on the OQA website (copies were available to everyone at the meeting). He added this standardizes the extraction holding time with the SW-846 holding time 14 days.

TNI: Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) stated the next TNI meeting will be in Washington, D.C. in August, details are posted on their website. He stated they are now working on the mundane day-to-day items. Dr. Miller added the new standards are in review but not approved by NELAP, which can take up to another year to review

NJQLs: Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) stated there was nothing new.

Mack Rahimi (SBRSA) brought an article concerning MDLs for distribution. The link for this article, <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/method/det>, is also located at the end of the article.

Mark Feitelson (PAS) questioned which to report – MDL or PQL. Linda Bonnette reported labs were allowed to enter < 0.5 for drinking water. Tom Cady (HC-V) stated ELAC had this discussion last year where it was determined can not use MDLs, labs had to use RLs. Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP/OQA) stated and RL or PQL is something you can quantitate an MDL is not quantitative. He added it (the RL/PQL) is usually the lowest calibration point. Linda stated for drinking water the RL must be 0.5 for Regulated Volatiles. She added labs were being asked to use 0.5 as the lowest calibration standard for the 26 Regulated Volatiles but noted this was unenforceable.

Sludge (Biosolids): Anthony Pilawski (DWQ/BPR) said the federal rules for sludge require SW-846. He added (Standard Methods) method 2540G for Total Solids and Total Volatile Solids are the most violated methods.

Communications and (OQA) Website: No Report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonette (NJDEP/BSDW) reported nothing new.

PWTA: John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) reported the new rules have been adopted. The new testing for Warren and Sussex counties goes into effect tomorrow, with the sampling date determining which rules govern. He added the new version (v. 3.6) went into effect February 26th. It was noted one town in Mercer County had changed its name from Washington Township to Robbinsville Township. John discussed the issue with duplicate submission, which had occurred in the past. The mailing, not property, address and well location need to be submitted with the GPS coordinates for the well.

Tom Cady (HC-V) reported Karen Fell would be unable to do a 20-minute presentation until June. He added it was suggested John Shevlin (NJDEP/BSDW) might be able to do the presentation before June. John agreed to this.

Site Remediation: Greg Toffoli (NJDEP/SRP) was unable to attend but Tom Cady (HC-V) updated everyone. Tom reported the TPH method comparison had not yet been received. He added the Home Heating Oil parameters were considering removing the Volatile components and replacing with the SemiVolatile components. Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported PADEP was issuing their updated UST parameter list that coming weekend (March 15th) and were deleting the SemiVolatile portion from a number of the parameter lists but were keeping the Volatile portion. She added she would send the link to everyone.

Tom continued his report stating the Impact to Groundwater may not yet be part of the regs, only the Residential and Non-Residential limits. The groundwater pathway will be handled on a case-by-case basis. He added anything about SPLP won't be known until the regs are promulgated. Tom asked if anyone had any concerns about the Low Level TO-15 to please bring them to him so he could put them in one paper and circulate it before bringing it to Greg. Tom said the Benzo(a)pyrene limit was 0.2 but most labs were at 0.33. Carl Ambruster (TA) asked if the TPH action level was still tied up. Tom replied there was nothing definitive and he would ask Greg about it.

New Business

Method 1600: Harvey Klein (GSL) reported the EPA had noted their error in the federal register but other issues were not addressed. Tom Cady (HC-V) asked Harvey if he wanted ELAC to do anything. Harvey's response was he did not.

Pharmaceuticals in Water: Sharon O'Toole (MAEL) reported areas in New Jersey, especially Passaic County, and Philadelphia had found between 56 and 63 pharmaceuticals in all forms of water. She also noted Tom Cady (HC-V) had sent the ELAC membership a press release from PADEP stating their concern. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) stated her department was checking with a firm (Block and Veach) on removing SOC's from drinking water. She added this would be discussed at the next Water Quality meeting. Harvey Klein (GSL) stated the released report was "biased" as they neglected to release the levels found. He said there was no scientific evidence these pharmaceuticals would have an effect on anyone at these levels, there were no regulatory issues and the AWWA was aware of the publication but had not given any statement. Dr. Michael Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated the Journal of the American Chemical Society had a major article concerning this about a month ago. He said major universities were doing cell tests and the cells were disrupted by low levels of some of these pharmaceuticals. Anthony Pilawski (DWQ/BPR) reported sludge had been looking at this for 10 years.

Vendor Presentations: Tom Cady (HC-V) said he had been asked by an instrument vendor if he could do a presentation after the meeting. Harvey Klein (GSL) said ELAC used to do this before and saw no problem with doing it now, after the meetings.

Drinking Water: Frank Medora (Aqua PA) asked if there was anything new concerning Drinking Water. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP/BSDW) replied nothing for radon, perchlorate was still in attorney review, the groundwater rule was online and the chlorine analyzers used by many were the "wrong kind." She stated the EPA knew this was a national problem and not just a problem in New Jersey. She added they were working on fast tracking of method for the probe; grab samples to validate the probe were not acceptable.

Reminders: Mack Rahimi (SBRSA) wanted to remind everyone the Method 1631E low level mercury work was now going on and that April 29, 2008 was the lab section of the NJWEA conference in Atlantic City.

There were no other new issues. The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 10, 2008 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

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